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YESTERDAY'S ELECTIONS IN HESSE AND BAVARIA RESULTED IN FURTHER CONSERVATIVE GAINS AT THE EXPENSE OF CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE SMALL FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF FOREIGN MINISTER BENSCHER.

WHILE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC-FREE DEMOCRATIC COALITION IN HESSE HAS MANAGED BY A NARROW MARGIN TO RETAIN CONTROL OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT, STATE LEADERS CAN TAKE LITTLE COMFORT FROM THE STEADY EROSION OF SUPPORT IN THIS TRADITIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC STRONG-THE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION, AS EXPECTED, HOLD. EMERGED THE STRONGEST SINGLE PARTY IN THE STATE FOR THE FIRST TIME. CREDIT FOR HAVING AVOIDED MORE SERIOUS LOSSES SHOULD GO TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, WITHOUT WHOSE STRONG NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONTROL OF THE

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Approved For Release 2004/10/08: CIA-RDP78S01932A000100170070-3

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